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increase since the days when Catherine the Second planned to divide the Turkish Empire, and her recent policy toward Bulgaria shows her insatiate greed of power.

In his closing chapters the author gives an interesting résumé of Russian history, a page thickly blotted with acts of injustice and cruelty; an account of the reforms of Alexander II., and of the present despotic system. He echoes the sentiment of the reader at this point, when he says: "One would think that the more intelligent people of Russia would abandon a country thus infected; but even this poor privilege is denied them; they cannot lawfully leave the empire, nor even their own town, without the consent of their government. Every Russian found without a passport is an outlaw, to be hunted down by the authorities."

The outcome of the struggle between the Slav and the Saxon depends, according to our author, on two things. First, the scope and strength of disintegrating forces in the British Empire, and second, on social and political changes in Russia which may possibly remove aggressive motives.

The whole question appears to Mr. Foulke less remote from American interest than it seems. Russia now desires our moral support, and asks that her political fugitives be surrendered. Some claim for our friendly consideration is found in the friendly attitude of the late Czar to our country during the Civil War.

To combat the false sentiment which would lead us to an act of foul injustice this work has been written, and the author's aim is laudably accomplished.

V.

PATRICK HENRY.

AMERICA is indebted to Prof. Moses Coit Tyler for an excellent contribution to the American Statesmen Series, in the form of a life of Patrick Henry,* the first and only one founded on original investigation since that of Wirt, in 1817. Since this date, a mass of official documents, private correspondence, diaries, and personal records of various kinds, all relating to the times of Henry, have been published, and other unpublished material has become available.

The personal element enters largely into this life, and adds greatly to the reader's interest. Instead of a stately figure-head calmly sailing through the troubled sea of national affairs, as portrayed by the ordinary biographer, we gain a good idea of the man, first as the dreaming, frolicsome boy, "with a mortal enmity to books, supplemented by a passionate regard for fishing-rods and shot-guns; . . . a roamer in woods, a loiterer on river banks, having more tastes and aspirations in common with frontiersmen than with the toilers of civilized life; . . . making small and reluctant progress into the mysteries of reading, writing, and arithmetic." Again, one year after failing in the business of a country store, "having attained the ripe age of eighteen, and being then entirely out of employment, and equally out of money, Patrick rounded out his embarrassments, and gave symmetry to them, as it were, by getting married . . . to a young woman quite as impecunious as himself." Later on, a trio of illustrious horsemen ride slowly into Philadelphia on horseback to attend the First Continental Congress. Besides George Washington and Edmund Pendleton, there is a man looking like a half Quaker in his suit of parson's gray, "in religious matters a saint, but the very devil in politics; a son of thunder," destined hereafter to shake the Senate; or, "traveling homeward along the dusty highway, at once the

* "Patrick Henry." By Moses Coit Tyler. American Statesmen Series. Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

jolliest, the most popular, and the least pretentious man in all Virginia, certainly its greatest orator, possibly even its greatest statesman."

Throughout the book Patrick Henry is the central figure, never yielding his place to minor characters. The digressions are few and brief, never extending beyond the necessity of the case, and the strictest rules of biographical writing are carefully adhered to.

Among the important manuscripts recently brought to light of which the author makes interesting use, are certain old fee-books carefully and neatly kept by Mr. Henry from the beginning of his law practice to the last years of his life. From these we learn that during the first three years of his professional career, from 1760 to 1763, a period in which he is accused of living in idleness at the house of his father-in-law, fees were charged in 1,185 suits, besides others for preparing legal papers out of court. Referring to the published misstatements of Thomas Jefferson on this subject, Mr. Tyler says: "This competent and diligent young lawyer (Jefferson), whom, forsooth, the rustling leaves of the forest could never for once entice from the rustle of the leaves of his law-books, did, nevertheless, transact, during his own first four years of practice, less than one-half as much business as seems to have been done during a somewhat shorter space of time by our poor, ignorant, indolent, slovenly, client-shunning, and forest-haunting Patrick."

Most of these suits involved a knowledge of general practice which he was not at that time supposed to possess. But his genius was intuitive; "by a glance of the eye he could take in what an ordinary man might spend hours in toiling for. All his resources were at instant command; . . . he was also a man of human and friendly ways, whom all men loved, and whom all men wanted to help." The celebrated Parsons case, in which the young lawyer made the foundation of his successful career, is treated in a picturesque and graphic style which brings vividly before us the great audience from all the surrounding counties, the twenty learned clergymen on the bench, the magistrate, Mr. Henry's own father, in his chair almost ready to sink in his embarrassment when the awkward youth stumbles carelessly through the opening of his plea, but with cheeks moistened by tears of ecstasy as the young lawyer's face "shone with a nobleness and grandeur it had never before exhibited," and in all parts of the house men were "stooping forward in death-like silence," to catch each word of the wonderful speaker.

The stirring oration before the Virginia convention, memorized by school-boys even to this day, the battle in Virginia over the new constitution, and the closing years of the busy life, though often told, breathe a new interest in this volume. In the words of Mr. Bancroft, the historian, "It is thoroughly and excellently well done." The pages are not marred by elaborate foot-notes, but all authorities cited are named, with editions used, at the close of the book, and a carefully prepared index completes this symmetrical volume.

VI.

A NEW ENGLAND IDYLL.

ALTHOUGH as a rule people born in Boston need not be born again, the writer of this piquant book* has a pretty tale to tell of the mental and ethical phases of a girl of that habitat. This is not Miss Curtis, who is old, but Olive, who has been sufficiently fed on philosophy to discover somewhere between childhood and young-ladyhood that she is "a potentiality and a conscious personality." Her

* "Miss Curtis." A sketch by Kate Gannett Wells. Boston : Ticknor & Company. 1888.